

possible for the Central Government to take any action in the matter.

Investment by Non-resident Indians

3534. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any possibility of increasing investment in the technical sector by non-resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of investment made by the non-resident Indians in the direct foreign investment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Sector of investment primarily depends upon the choice of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).

(c) Since the introduction of new Industrial Policy in July 1991, till 31.5.1996, the percentage of Non-resident Indians (NRIs) investment approved by the Government, comes to approximately 33% of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

[English]

Increase in Non-Tariff Business

3535. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Non-tariff barriers on the rise" as reported in 'Pioneer' dated July 16, 1996;

(b) whether it has been revealed that the use of non-tariff barriers have increased since the last few years according to a study conducted by FICCI; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has identified Non-Tariff Barriers imposed by India's Major Trading Partners. Such barriers include textiles quotas, anti-dumping and countervailing duties, strict standards relating to health and environment etc. Most of such protectionist measures are consistent with the relevant GATT/WTO Agreements. Nevertheless, the non-tariff barriers identified by us are taken up bilaterally with our trading partners to ensure that market access of Indian exporters is not

unreasonably hindered by these trading partners. In case of any inconsistency or discrimination, India has a right to approach the WTO dispute settlement mechanism for redressal.

Restructuring of P.S.U.s.

3536. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Scheme of Restructuring of Public Sector Units have been approved by United Nation Development Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is delay on the part of some State Governments in finalising the agreements in this regard;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) : UNDP has approved of a scheme which envisages turning around of 4 selected public enterprises of the Central Government and 3 selected public enterprises of the Govt. of Kerala through process consultancy in the form of management interventions at the enterprise level.

(c) to (e) : The Govt. of Kerala has not signed the project document as yet. They have been requested to expedite.

Popularity of Indian Vehicles in Australia

3537. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Indian commercial vehicles are very popular in Australia;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of manufacturers;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce those vehicles in other countries also; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The TELCO commercial vehicle 207 — Pick-up launched recently in Australia has received good response in that country.

(c) and (d) The vehicle has already been introduced in countries like Spain & Italy where it is quite popular. The company is proposing to introduce it in other

countries also.

Private Banks in Rural Areas

3538. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI MANIK RAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bank Trade Unions all over the country have opposed the establishment of private banks in the country particularly in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government to the protest?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the All-India Regional Rural Banks Employees Association (AIRRBEA) has represented against the decision to allow the establishment of new local banks in the private sector.

(b) With a view to providing institutional mechanisms for promoting rural savings as well as for the provision of credit for viable economic activities in the local areas, it has been decided to allow the establishment of new local banks in the private sector. This is expected to bridge the gaps in credit availability and enhance the institutional credit frame-work in rural and semi-urban areas. RBI's view is that the demand for credit in rural areas and potential for mobilising savings from rural areas is large enough to allow for the viable operations of these new banks.

New NTC Units

3539. SHRI DARBARA SINGH :
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government propose to set up more Units of National Textile Corporation in the country particularly in Punjab and hilly areas of U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these units are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Offload Percentage of Shares

3540. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the

Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to offload 74 percent state and retain a share of 26 percent in Public Sector Undertakings in non-core and non-strategic areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of Public Sector Undertakings which fall into these areas;

(c) the reaction of trade unions in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for the change in policy of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) A Disinvestment Commission has been constituted by the Government which shall inter alia draw a comprehensive overall long term disinvestment programme within 5 to 10 years for the PSUs referred to it and shall determine the extent of disinvestment in each of the PSU. The Govt. shall consider the recommendation of the Commission about the extent of disinvestment to be carried out in each PSU.

[Translation]

Suggestions of Vora Committee for P.S.E.

3541. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri B.C. Vora was constituted to review the functioning of public sector enterprises and make suggestions for their reform;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Union Government;

(d) if so, details of the main recommendations made by it; and

(e) the action taken for implementing the recommendations made in this regard so far.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, a Working Group set up by the Planning Commission on Management of public enterprises' had constituted a sub-group under the Chairmanship of Shri B.C. Bora, Chairman, ONGC, on the "role of public sector enterprises". Besides Shri Bora, the sub-group consists of Dr. K.G. Ramanathan,